

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-4 remain pending in the application. By the foregoing amendment claim 1 is amended.

In paragraph 2, page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1, 3 and 4 are rejected as being anticipated by US Patent 4,088,899 (Miller et al.). In paragraph 4, page 3 of the Office Action, claim 2 is rejected as being unpatentable over the Miller et al. patent in view of US Patent 5,832,801 (Bando). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants have disclosed an arrangement for cutting an optical fiber. As exemplified in Fig. 1, a handle 3 is pivoted to a fixture 2 for pressing a fiber 1 (e.g., page 2, lines 11-12). The handle 3 is operated by a shaft 4 of a linear motor 5 via a lever 6 that is pivoted around a spindle 7 (e.g., page 2, lines 19 and 20). A motor is provided to operate the fiber cutter, the shaft 4 of the motor 5 rising to press the handle 3 down towards the fiber 1 (e.g., page 2, lines 24 and 25). The motor is controlled by a control unit to start a cutting movement in response to a start signal to be generated when the fiber is located in the fiber cutter (e.g., page 2, lines 27-30). A detector connected to the control unit is adapted to detect snap off of the fiber and in response thereto causes the control unit to generate a stop signal to stop the cutting movement (e.g., page 3, lines 5-18). The cutting movement is automatically stopped at a predetermined position of the fiber cutter if fiber snap off is not detected (e.g., page 3, lines 20-24).

The Miller et al. patent is directed to a method for controlling an automatic machine tool in which a ribbon steel 30 is fed to be punched or bent by the pressing

of die shoes 20 and 28 (col. 3, lines 10-18). The Miller et al. patent does not relate to a pivoting handle being operable with a motor having a rising shaft. The Miller et al. patent does not teach or suggest an arrangement for cutting an optical fiber including, among other claimed features, a fiber cutter having a handle pivoted to the fiber cutter to cut fiber; a motor provided with a shaft capable of rising to operate the fiber cutter by effectuating a cutting movement of the pivoted handle; and a control unit, the motor being controlled by the control unit to start the cutting movement in response to a start signal to be generated when the fiber is located in the fiber cutter, as recited in claim 1.

The Bando patent does not cure the deficiencies of the Miller et al. patent. Rather, the Bando patent relates to a numerically controlled flat surface cutting apparatus adapted for cutting a glass plate. Even if the Miller et al. patent and the Bando patent were combined as suggested by the Examiner, the combined teaching would not have resulted in an arrangement for cutting an optical fiber including, among other claimed features, a fiber cutter having a handle pivoted to the fiber cutter to cut fiber; a motor provided with a shaft capable of rising to operate the fiber cutter by effectuating a cutting movement of the pivoted handle; and a control unit, the motor being controlled by a control unit to start the cutting movement in response to a start signal to be generated when the fiber is located in the fiber cutter, as recited in claim 1.

As such, Applicants' independent claim 1 is allowable. The remaining claims variously depend from the independent claims and recite additional advantageous features which further distinguish over the document relied upon by the Examiner. As such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

All objections and rejections raised in the Office Action having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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